

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical connector comprising:
a housing formed of an insulative material, the housing having a top surface;
conductive terminals provided within the housing;
a metal latch connected to the housing, the latch including a first leg and a second leg which is
5 substantially angled relative to the first leg such that a substantially "V" shape is formed by the
first and second legs, the first leg being attached to the housing, the second leg having means for
connecting the latch to a mating connector, the second leg being cantilevered relative to the first
leg and being capable of being moved from an initial unstressed position to a stressed position
towards the first leg when pressure is applied to the second leg and capable of returning to the
10 initial unstressed position when the pressure is removed.
2. An electrical connector as defined in claim 1, wherein the connecting means
comprises at least one protrusion which extends from the second leg.
3. An electrical connector as defined in claim 2, wherein the at least one protrusion
extends in a direction opposite to that of the first leg.
4. An electrical connector as defined in claim 2, wherein the first leg is planar and
the second leg comprises a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, the first portion
being angled relative to the first leg when the second leg is in the initial unstressed position and
the third portion being substantially parallel to the first leg, the second portion connecting the
5 first portion and the third portion together.
5. An electrical connector as defined in claim 4, wherein the at least one protrusion
is provided on the first portion.

6. An electrical connector as defined in claim 2, wherein the first leg is planar and the second leg comprises a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, the first portion having an end attached to the first leg and being at a predetermined angle relative to the first leg when the second leg is in the initial unstressed position, a first end of the second portion being connected to a second end of the first portion, the second portion being at a predetermined angle relative to the first leg when the second leg is in the initial unstressed position which is greater than the predetermined angle of the first portion relative to the first leg, and a first end of the third portion being connected to a second end of the second portion, the third portion being substantially parallel to the first leg.

5 7. An electrical connector as defined in claim 6, wherein the at least one protrusion is provided on the first portion.

8. An electrical connector as defined in claim 1, wherein the connecting means comprises first and second spaced apart protrusions, the protrusions extending from the second leg.

9. An electrical connector as defined in claim 8, wherein the protrusions extend in a direction opposite to that of the first leg.

10. An electrical connector as defined in claim 8, wherein the first and second protrusions extend in a direction opposite to that of the first leg.

11. An electrical connector as defined in claim 8, wherein the first leg is planar and the second leg comprises a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, the first portion being angled relative to the first leg when the second leg is in the initial unstressed position and the third portion being substantially parallel to the first leg, the second portion connecting the first portion and the third portion together.

5 12. An electrical connector as defined in claim 11, wherein the first and second protrusions are provided on the first portion.

13. An electrical connector as defined in claim 8, wherein the first leg is planar and the second leg comprises a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, the first portion having an end attached to the first leg and being at a predetermined angle relative to the first leg when the second leg is in the initial unstressed position, a first end of the second portion being connected to a second end of the first portion, the second portion being at a predetermined angle relative to the first leg when the second leg is in the initial unstressed position which is greater than the predetermined angle of the first portion relative to the first leg, and a first end of the third portion being connected to a second end of the second portion, the third portion being substantially parallel to the first leg.

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14. An electrical connector as defined in claim 13, wherein the first and second protrusions are provided on the first portion.

15. An electrical connector as defined in claim 1, wherein the top surface of the housing is substantially planar and the first leg is substantially parallel to the substantially planar top surface.

16. An electrical connector as defined in claim 1, wherein the first leg includes means for attaching the latch to the housing.

17. An electrical connector as defined in claim 16, wherein the housing has a pair of walls extending from the top surface, the first leg being positioned between the walls, the attaching means comprising barbs provided on the first leg which engage with the walls.

18. An electrical connector as defined in claim 1, wherein the metal latch is formed from stainless steel.